

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SWF-02 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SP-03

STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-15

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TAGS: EGEN, PFOR, EEC, DA

SUBJECT: DANISH REACTIONS TO CALLAGHAN SPEECH ON EC
TREATY RENEGOTIATION

REF: COPENHAGEN 703, 716

SUMMARY. DANISH FONMIN GULDBERG APPARENTLY FOLLOWED
HIS BRIEF IN RESPONDING GENTLY AND WITH UNDERSTANDING
TO CALLAGHAN EC COUNCIL PRESENTATION APRIL 1 ON
RENEGOTIATION. FONOFF SOURCE EXPRESSED DISTRESS WITH
REPORTED SHARP REACTIONS OF JOBERT AND SCHEEL, WHICH
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HE THOUGH WOULD ONLY EXACERBATE ISSUE. DANES ARE

PREPARED TO ASSUME CALLAGHAN SPOKE PRINCIPALLY FOR HOME CONSUMPTION AND CONTINUE TO SEE POSSIBILITIES FOR REVISIONS IN ARRANGEMENTS FOR BRITIAN SHORT OF TREATY REVISION. DANES, HOWEVER, HOLD FIRM TO TREATY COMMITMENTS; TO DO OTHERWISE COULD REOPEN QUESTION OF DANISH EC MEMBERSHIP WITH NO CERTAINTY OF OUTCOME. END SUMMARY.

1. FONOFF HAS NOT YET RECEIVED REPORT FROM ITS BRUSSELS DELEGATION BUT DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY WANDEL- PETERSEN TOLD US THAT, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, FONMIN GULDBERG FOLLOWED PREVIOUSLY AGREED DANISH POSITION IN RESPONDING TO FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN'S CALL FOR RENEGOTIATION OF THE TERMS OF BRITISH EC ENTRY. GULDBERG REPORTEDLY SAID THAT DENMARK HOLDS FIRMLY TO EXISTING TREATY COMMITMENTS BUT HAS FULL UNDERSTANDING OF BRITISH PROBLEMS. HE REFERRED TO DANISH EXPERIENCES IN EFTA WHERE IT HAD BEEN DEMONSTRATED THAT UK COULD BE GRANTED SPECIAL TREATMENT DURING PERIODS OF DIFFICULTY WITHOUT DAMAGING THE COOPERATIVE FRAMEWORK OR CAUSING SERIOUS PROBLEMS TO OTHER EFTA MEMBERS. GULDBERG SAID THAT DENMARK THEREFORE WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR UK DURING A TRANSITIONAL PERIOD, PROVIDED THEY DID NOT AFFECT VITAL DANISH INTERESTS. HE THOUGHT THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE BRITISH SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO RUN UNTIL THE END OF THIS YEAR. HE NOTED THAT THE NEW LABOR GOVERNMENT HAD MADE EXTENSIVE DEMANDS BUT SUGGESTED THAT AN EVALUATION OF THE BRITISH THREAT TO WITHDRAW SHOULD NOT BE MADE UNTIL CONCRETE REQUESTS WERE EXAMINED.

2. AANDEL-PETERSEN EMPHASIZED PRAGMATISM IN DANISH APPROACH. HE FELT THAT MUCH OF TONE AND CONTENT OF CALLAGHAN SPEECH WAS AIMED AT HOME AUDIENCE AND THAT MOST OF "DEMANDS" CALLAGHAN MADE APPEAR SUSCEPTIBLE TO RESOLUTION SHORT OF TREATY REVISION. WANDEL-PETERSEN SAID DENMARK WOULD BE NEGATIVE ON TREATY REVISION BUT SUGGESTED THAT, FOR EXAMPLE, REDUCTION OF BRITISH CONTRIBUTION COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED BY FORMULA CHANGES IN REGIONAL OR SOCIAL PROGRAMS OR EVEN NIN CAP SHORT OF REVISING UK PERCENTAGE CONTRIBUTION TO EC BUDGET IN TREATY OF ACCESSION.

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3. WANDEL-PETERSEN THOUGHT JOBERT'S AND SCHEEL'S SHARP REACTIONS ONLY LIKELY TO HARDEN POSITIONS ON ALL SIDES AND MAKE DIFFICULT REASONABLE RESOLUTION OF RENEGOTIATION ISSUE. HE ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS PERSONALLY SHOCKED AT HARSHNESS OF CALLAGHAN'S STATEMENTS WHICH AAS CONTRARY TO REPORTS HE HAD PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED ON NATURE AND CONTENT OF PRESENTATION. (BRITISH EMBASSY OFFICER

TOLD US THAT HIS AMBASSADOR HAD GONE IN TO FONMIN A WEEK
AGO TO "SOFTEN UP" DANES ABOUT CALLAGHAN SPEECH. UPON
HEARING OF WANDEL-PETERSEN'S REACTION, HE WONDERED
WHETHER THEY HAD OVERDONE IT.)

4. COMMENT. DANES HAVE A LARGE AND CRITICAL STAKE IN
OUTCOME OF BRITISH RENEGOTIATIONS WITH COMMUNITY.
TREATY REVISION OR BRITISH WITHDRAWAL COULD OPEN UP
WHOLE QUESTION OF DAISH MEMBERSHIP, INCLUDING
POSSIBLE LEGAL NECESSITY OF HOLDING ANOTHER REFERENDUM
IN DENMARK. MOST RECENT POLLS HAVE SHOWN CONSIDERABLE
DROP IN EC POPULARITY AMONG DANES. IT IS ALSO NOT
CERTAIN THAT CONCILIATORY APPROACH TAKEN BY GULDBERG AT
BRUSSELS WILL HOLD. ON MONDAY EVENING, ECONOMIC AND
COMMERCE MINISTER, MYBOE ANDERSEN, SPEAKING BEFORE A
GROUP OF DANISH IMPORTERS OF BRITISH PRODUCTS, WAS
CONSIDERABLY MORE CRITICAL OF BRITISH RENEGOTIATION
DEMANDS. HE WARNED AGAINST ASKING FOR MORE THAN POSSIBLE
AND SUGGESTED THAT SUCH ACTION COULD ISOLATE BRITAIN
FROM THE REST OF WESTERN EUROPE.
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